



Operation Iraqi Freedom

The Iraqis whose approval of America's invasion sealed the fate of Iraq

Introduction

A year before American and allied forces stormed Baghdad, a statement was handed to congress, signed by 137 Iraqis in favour of their country's 'liberation' by military means. It came as an extension of the 'Iraq Liberation Act' passed by congress in 1998 and ratified in 2002. The act endorsed a policy of regime change for the removal of Saddam Hussein, promoting in his place, a democratic and representative government.

America pledged \$97 million dollars in military aid to so-called Iraqi opposition groups. The majority of the undersigned either became ministers of state, or ambassadors, whose careers have been built on the rubble of their country. An overwhelming majority, who today occupy high ranking positions within the current government, belonged to Islamist and Kurdish factions backed by neighbouring Iran. Their growth was not only facilitated by congressional backing, but also through the support offered to them by Britain, Kuwait, Lebanon and Syria.

As shown in the table below, 93 out of 137 names currently live in the United Kingdom, 84 of which are based in London. A total of 6, are believed to reside within the United States, and the remainder live in either European and Nordic countries, with the exception of Kuwait and Malaysia.

Countries of residence, Iraqi Opposition

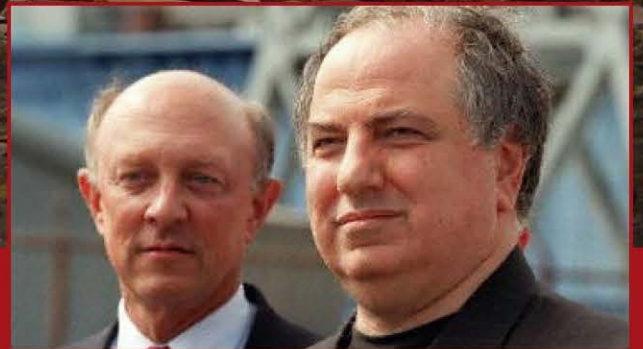


The undersigned:

1. **Sayyid Mohammad Mehdi Bahr Al 'Ulloum**, head of Ahlul Bayt Centre, South London
**Al 'Ulloum became one of three leaders responsible for The Iraqi National Congress, founded in June 1992 as one of several Iraqi opposition groups. Al 'Ulloum is believed to be living in London.*
2. **Saad Saleh Jabr**, former president of The Free Iraqi Council in London (1991), where he lives currently.
**Jabr is widely known as an outspoken figure and critic of Iraq's deposed president, Saddam Hussein.*
3. **Sayyid Dr. Mohammad Ali Al Shahrestani**, founder of the International University for Islamic Studies, London
4. **Dr. Mahmoud Uthman**, member of the Kurdistan Alliance, went into exile in 1991.
**Former member of the Iraqi Interim government (2003). In later years Dr. Uthman served as a member of the Iraqi parliament. He currently performs an advisory role on Kurdish related matters.*
5. **Sayyid Hussain Baraka Al Shami**, Director of Dar Al-Islam Foundation, Cricklewood, London
**Previously an adviser to ex-prime minister Nouri Al Maliki*
6. **Abdul Halim Al Rahimi**, London based journalist and writer
**Al Rahimi went on to become a key member within the Iraqi state of law coalition, headed by Nouri Al-Maliki*
7. **Dr. Abd Al Khaliq Hussein**, Iraqi author and Surgeon. Resides in England
**During the 1990s, Hussein served as the former editor-in-Chief of Arabic language newspaper Al Ghad Al Dimuqrati (A Democratic Future), known for its critical stance against the Iraqi (Ba'ath) government*
8. **Abdul Razzaq Ibrahim Ali**, London based writer and businessman
9. **Hameed Ali Al Kifai**, London based journalist and writer.
**Kifai served as the acting spokesman for the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) and was the co-chairman of the International Conference on Free Media in Iraq*
10. **Dr. Mohammad Ali Fadhil Al Rubaie**, Professor of Biochemistry, University College Dublin
**Al Rubaie was the former advisor to the Ministry of higher education (2003-4) and to former president Jalal Talabani (2006-2014). He currently heads the the Network of Iraqi Scientists Abroad*
11. **Dr. Salah Al Shaikhly**. Resides in London
**Al Shaikhly was Iraq's former Deputy Minister of Planning (1968-76), and governor of Iraq's central bank. After breaking away from the Iraqi (Ba'ath) government, Al-Shaikhly held various positions at the United Nations in New York between the 1980s and 1990s). He served as Iraq's ambassador to Britain (2004-2008) and before that headed the Iraqi National Accord opposition group.*
12. **Jassim Al Mutair**, writer and researcher resides in Hague, Holland.
**Former member of the Iraqi Democratic Movement*
13. **Al Muhandis Abd Al Karim Al Kadhimi**, director of Arabic language Encyclopedia Al Nahrayn (The Two Rivers)
14. **Tuoma Aziz Al Saadi**, Architect and and London based businessman
15. **Sayyid Siham Mehdi Al Saadi**, London based civil society activist
16. **Haider Tuma Saadi**, London based architect
17. **Dr. Riyadh Al-Amir**, Engineer and political commentator, resides in Vienna.
**Former advisor to UNESCO*
18. **Imad Dhiya Khirsan**, consultant engineer, resides in the United States
19. **Dr. Saad Al Rashid**, Engineer. Resides in the United Kingdom
20. **Abdel Fattah Al Murtadha**, professor of theatre studies, resides in Canada
21. **Dr. Ahmad Al Nu'man**. Fine artist and writer, resides in the United Kingdom
22. **Iqbal Hussein**, pharmacist. Resides in the United Kingdom
23. **Dr. Allawi Al Haddad**, engineer, resides in Sweden
24. **Dr. Majid Al Zamil** Moscow based civil engineer
25. **Murad Mustafa**, Iraqi writer, resides in France.
26. **Hamad Shuraidah**, engineer. Resides in Oslo, Norway
27. **Dr. Adil Awad**, doctor and writer, resides in the United States
28. **Dr. Hassan Al Janabi**, former ambassador to the United Nations Rome based Food and Agricultural Organization and World Food Programme. He currently resides in Sydney, Australia.
**In April 2016, Dr. Al Janabi was appointed minister of water resources, as part of prime Minister Haidar Al Abadi's new 'technocrat' government.*
29. **Riyadh Al Attar**, a human rights activist, resides in Sweden.
30. **Ali Abdallah Hussein**, London based computer engineer
31. **Maysoon Mohammad Ali**, London based psychologist
32. **Fawzi Qattan**, information technology consultant, resides in Sweden
33. **Shafiq Ali**, consultant engineer, resides in London

34. **Dr. Ali Mehdi**, Civil engineer, resides in the United Kingdom
35. **Kathim Jassim**, writer
36. **Dr. Hassan Helboss**, specialist surgeon, resides in Germany
37. **Sahib Mehdi Al Tahir**, Holland based writer
38. **Abd Al Samad Asad**, editor-in-chief of 'Call of Kurds' newspaper, London
39. **Mustafa Al Kadhim**, writer and journalist based in London
**Al-Kadhim currently holds the position of 'director of Iraqi intelligence'*
40. **Asad Al Khafaji**, university lecturer, resides in Chicago
41. **Alaa Muhi Al-Din**, Detroit based engineer and Islamic scholar
42. **Mundhir Al Musawi**, Switzerland based writer
43. **Ibrahim Ahmed**, Iraqi novelist, resides in Sweden
44. **Dawoud Al Basri**, political writer and analyst, resides in Norway
45. **Malik Hassan**, teacher and writer, resides in Sweden
46. **Muhannad Al Shaiqir**, civil engineer. Affiliated with Iraqi Democratic Platform, resides in California
47. **Dr. Kadhim Jawad Shabr**, university lecturer, resides in London
48. **Dr. Mohammad Ali Zaini**, economist at Energy research thinktank in London
49. **Dr. Najah Kadhem**, London based university lecturer
50. **Dr. Mahmoud Al Hashimi**, London based osteopathic doctor
51. **Dr. Sahib Al Hakim**, human rights defender, resides in London
52. **Abbas Rustom**, former Iraqi state employee and member of Communist Party of Kurdistan. Resides in London
53. **Shamil Mohammed**, London based political activist
54. **Kamal Mahmoud**, independent writer, resides in London
55. **Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Al Tajir**, heads the political bureau of the Islamic Action Organization, London
56. **Abd Al Jabbar Al Hassan**, London based builder
57. **Hana Al Zubaidi**, London based teacher and economist
58. **Jassim Hidad**, spacial design architect, resides in London
59. **Idris Mohammed Idris**, London based pharmacist
60. **Haifa Abd Al Kareem**, medical interpreter, resides in London
61. **Sarmad Hussain Al Saad**, London based mechanical engineer and supervisor over industrial production
62. **Reem Tuma Al Saadi**, holds a bachelor's degree in medical sciences. Resides in London
63. **Rasha Tuma Al Saadi**, holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, resides in London
64. **Esmaa Al Dabouni**, computer engineer, resides in London
65. **Dr. Ihsan Al-Aesam**, university lecturer, resides in Canada
66. **George Mansour**, writer and journalist and president of The Iraqi Human Rights Association, resides in Canada
67. **Qassim Sarhan**, Iraqi writer based in the United States
68. **Redha Jawad Taqi**, independent Islamist politician, resides in London
69. **Sami Al Askari**, former member of the Iraqi Reconstruction and Development Council (IRDC), and technical adviser to the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).
**He was elected minister of transport back in 2007, and worked as a one time senior advisor to ex-prime minister Nouri Al Maliki. It is claimed that Al Askari split from the Dawa party in December 2013. Al Askari currently resides in London*
70. **Dr. Hassan Al Eidi**, London based university lecturer
71. **Fadhel Al Sultani**, London based author and poet
72. **Adnan Hussein**, London based writer and journalist
73. **Jamal Haider**, London based author and journalist
74. **Sheikh Mohammed Huweidi**, London based Islamic scholar
75. **Asad Fayli**, Secretary General of The Islamic Fayli Kurdish Grouping
76. **Mehdi Al Saed**, London based writer and journalist
77. **Yassin Al Ansari**, London based university lecturer
78. **Majid Al Sari**, member of national movement in support of Iraq's uprising. Resides in Sweden
79. **Hussein Al Nasri**, London based fine artist
80. **Jawwad Al Saed**, London based activist
81. **Hamza Al Tai**, retired military officer, resides in Sweden.
**Back in 2003, Al Tai served as a local commander of the Jaysh Al Mehdi militia, as the deputy head of Moqtada Sadr's office in Karbala*
82. **Serbest Bamerni**, London based writer and journalist
83. **Serko Othman**, London based journalist
84. **Sherzad Talabani**, London based university professor
85. **Younis Abdallah**, European Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)
86. **Nabil Al Janabi**, London based University lecturer
87. **Talib Al Ramahi**, London based author

88. **Sherko Habib**, member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party
89. **Samir Fayli**, president of the Kurdish Fayli society in London
90. **Khaled Al Douski**, London based journalist
91. **Hussein Darwish Al Adely**, London based writer and specialist in Islamic studies
92. **Dr. Muther Al Fadhel**, university lecturer resides in Sweden
93. **Mohammad Hassan Al Musawi**, London based journalist
94. **Dhiya Kashi**, London based political activist, coordinator of the 1991 accord written a year following the Iraqi opposition conference in Damascus (Jan 1990)
95. **Widad Hassan**, London based civil society activist
96. **Adwin Shukr**, Jewish-Iraq businessman and philanthropist, resides in London Edwin serves as the vice president of the European Jewish Congress, and sits on the executive board of deputies of British jews
97. **Fa'ik Al Sheikh Ali**, London based lawyer, who founded Hizb Al Shaab (The People's Party) in 2011 - an Iraqi secular political party. Resides in London
98. **Emmanuel Jacob**, London based mechanical engineer
99. **William Isaiah**, London based veterinary doctor
100. **Bahram Zia**, London based political activist
101. **Ishaya Isho**, secretary of the Assyrian National Organization, London
102. **Khoshaba Hormuz**, London based agronomist
103. **Albert Edward Ismail Yelda**, Iraq's ambassador to the Vatican. Resides in the United Kingdom
**Before Yelda was appointed to serve as Iraq's ambassador to the Vatican, he co-founded Iraqi Liberation Coalition with friend Ayad Allawi, as an opposition group committed the the removal of Saddam Hussein.*
104. **Carlos Dermo**, London based civil engineer
105. **Dr. Jalil Boutros**, London based Dentist
106. **Gerges Backus**, London based electrical engineer
107. **Adwin Boutros**, served as a military officer prior to 2003. Currently retired and resides in London
108. **Adnan Al Shahbandar**, London based writer and journalist
109. **Amira Al-Attar**, London based social activist
110. **Ali Sajjad**, London based businessman
111. **Mohammad Hussein Al-Tajir**, London based religious scholar
112. **Fadhel Al-Khatib**, London based religious preacher
113. **Mehdi Sajjad**, London based businessman
114. **Sabah Al Assadi**, London based researcher
115. **Hussein Mohammed Saleh**, London based businessman
116. **Ali Al Sahni**, London based businessman
117. **Mohammed Al Jizani**, London based journalist
118. **Dr. Hussein Al Musawi**, resides in London
119. **Yatron Darmu**, London based electrical engineer
120. **Dr. Ali Al Khatib**, London based university lecturer
121. **Dr. Ibrahim Al Aa'ti**, London based university professor
122. **Ali Al Ashtar**, Islamic cleric and writer, resides in Sweden
123. **Hameed Hadad**, Iraqi poet, resides in Holland
124. **Shaaalan Sharif**, Iraqi poet, resides in Holland
125. **Imad Ashour Al Khafaji**, journalist
126. **Hamid Al Hamdani**, researcher, resides in Sweden
127. **Nihad Aykhanli**, member of the Turkoman People's Party, Canada Bureau
128. **Fadhel Abbas Tuma**, resides in Spain
129. **Azhar Rasoul Majid**, computer programmer, resides in Malaysia
130. **Hussein Khodher Al Basri**, resides in Kuwait
131. **Zahraa Al Tamimi**
132. **Bakhtiar Amin**, president of The Global Alliance for Justice
133. **Iyad Sultan Kamil**, resides in Germany
134. **Sayyid Ali Al Alaq**, religious representative, resides in Denmark
**Under Nouri Al Maliki tenure, Al Alaq served as cabinet secretary, and top aide to the former prime minister. He and other members of Maliki's cabinet are wanted on charges of corruption, and for manipulating banking regulations*
135. **Dr. Majid Hameed Redha**, doctor. Resides in the United Kingdom.
136. **Dr. Faiq Abbas**, UK based pediatrician
137. **Khanja Rafiq**, London based researcher



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